

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-53, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please add the following new claims 54-61:

1 54. (Newly Added) A generally tubular prosthesis for implantation in a  
2 human or animal duct to ensure a passageway in said duct, said prosthesis having a  
3 tubular surface and a tube axis and being generally axially subdivided into two or  
4 more circumferentially oriented hoop-like tubular portions, said prosthesis  
5 comprising:

6 a plurality of discrete structural wires or filaments joined together to  
7 form said prosthesis, said wires or filaments each having one or more corrugated  
8 portions and at least some of said wires or filaments having one or more generally  
9 straightened extension portions;

10 wherein said hoop-like tubular portions are formed from the corrugated  
11 portions of two or more of said wires or filaments; and

12 wherein said extension portions extend between and connect  
13 consecutive ones of said hoop-like tubular portions.

1 55. (Newly Added) The prosthesis of claim 54, wherein said corrugations  
2 comprise zig-zags having V-shaped apices connected by generally straight  
3 intermediate portions.

1 56. (Newly Added) The prosthesis of claim 54, wherein at least some of  
2 said extension portions extending between and connecting consecutive ones of  
3 said hoop-like tubular portions are oriented skew relative to the tubular axis.

1 57. (Newly Added) The prosthesis of claim 54, wherein said tubular  
2 portions are arranged generally adjacent to each other.

1 58. (Newly Added) The prosthesis of claim 54, wherein said prosthesis is  
2 a forked prosthesis comprising a generally tubular main branch and at least two  
3 secondary branches extending from said main branch.

1 59. (Newly Added) The prosthesis of claim 54, wherein consecutive ones  
2 of said hoop-like tubular portions are also connected at a point circumferentially  
3 displaced from said extension portion.

1 60. (Newly Added) A generally tubular prosthesis for implantation in a  
2 human or animal duct to ensure a passageway in said duct, said prosthesis having a  
3 tubular surface and a tube axis and being generally axially subdivided into two or  
4 more circumferentially oriented hoop-like tubular portions, said prosthesis  
5 comprising:

6 a wire or filament having one or more corrugated portions and one or  
7 more generally straightened extension portions;

8 wherein said hoop-like tubular portions are formed from the corrugated  
9 portions of two or more of said wires or filaments; and

10 wherein said extension portions extend in a helical path between and  
11 connect consecutive hoop-like tubular portions.

1 61. (Newly Added) An endoluminal stent comprising:

2 a plurality of hoops axially displaced in a tubular configuration along a  
3 common axis;

4 each of said hoops comprising a plurality of sinuous or zig-zag  
5 segments having apices in a plane substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal  
6 axis of the stent; and

7 adjacent hoops being connected by a connecting segment that extends  
8 along a helical path from a sinuous or zig-zag segment of one of said adjacent  
9 hoops to a sinuous or zig-zag segment of the other one of said adjacent hoops.

#### REMARKS

Applicants have filed this continuation application to pursue the above claims, which are directed to exemplary features of a prosthesis or stent. Claims 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, and 60 are substantially copied from U.S. Patent No. 5,800,515, which issued to Nadal et al. on September 1, 1998. A copy of the Nadal patent is submitted herewith for the Examiner's convenience.